

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140012

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SHUM, CV

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - CAPE VERDE ACTION PLAN

REF: A) BISSAU 0072; B) MCGUIRE-CURRAN OI OF 5/17  
C) STATE 139160

1. T E GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS HAVE BEEN TASKED TO PREPARE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORTS INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH COUNTRY AND THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THOSE CONDITIONS. GUIDELINES AND FORMAT INCLUDED IN REF C.

2. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS THE DESKS DRAFT REPORT FOR YOUR COMMENTS. YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUESTED BY JUNE 27 SO THAT THE BUREAU CAN MEET THE SUBMISSION DATE OF JULY 1.  
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3-THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE COUNTRY EVALUATION WILL BE CLASSIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652.

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REPORTS WILL BE USED AS SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE RECIPIENTS OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY.

4. A. CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAPE VERDE.

DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD, WHICH ENDED IN JULY 1975, CAPE VERDE WAS SPARED MUCH OF THE POLITICAL REPRESSION COMMON TO OTHER PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND EMERGED AT INDEPENDENCE WITH TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS BASICALLY INTACT. CAPE VERDE DOES NOT HAVE A CONSTITUTION AND SUFFICES WITH BASIC LAWS INCORPORATING PORTUGUESE LAW (FROM POST-REVOLUTION PORTUGAL) WITH LOCAL MODIFICATIONS.

(1) THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON IS RESPECTED AND FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT, ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT, DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL, AND INVASION OF THE HOME IS OBSERVED.

(2) CIVIL LIBERTIES SUCH AS FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, RELIGION, ASSEMBLY; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY; AND LIBERAL FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION POLICIES, ARE RESPECTED. CAPE VERDE IS A SINGLE PARTY STATE AND OTHER PARTIES ARE BANNED. HOWEVER, ONE NEED NOT JOIN THE PARTY TO HOLD ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICE. A 56-MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IN JUNE 1975 AND MEETS PERIODICALLY TO ENDORSE LAWS DRAWN UP BY A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH IS CHOSEN FROM AMONG MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

(3) THE CAPE VERDEAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN POSITIVE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND SEEK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO FULFILL BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND

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EDUCATION. BECAUSE OF A PROLONGED DROUGHT WHICH HAS LASTED FOR MORE THAN NINE YEARS, VIRTUALLY ALL CAPE VERDEANS ARE POOR. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE POOR MAJORITY IN THE ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF CORRUPTION.

(4) CAPE VERDE'S GOVERNMENT OBSERVES RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CAPE VERDE. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED BECAUSE MOST OF THE MEDIA IS OWNED BY THE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY OR THE GOVERNMENT. RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY APPEARS SECURE AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF SOME PRIVATE COMPANIES IS TOLERATED. THERE IS NO SECURITY JUSTIFICATION FOR MATTERS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS.

(5) WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CLAIMS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CAPE VERDE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ANY SUCH CLAIMS WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

5.B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS:

A) NEXT THREE MONTHS - DISCUSS USG COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT AND SECSTATE WITH APPROPRIATE GOCV OFFICIALS. STRESS IMPORTANCE HUMAN RIGHTS FACTORS PLAY IN FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING AND POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IF HUMAN RIGHTS DETERIORATE IN CAPE VERDE.

B) NEXT SIX MONTHS - IN VIEW SIZEABLE USG PL480 TITLE II SECTION 206 PROGRAM FOR CAPE VERDE, GOCV SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS  
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FUNDED BY SALE OF SECTION 206 COMMODITIES.

C) NEXT YEAR - TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED ECONOMIC AND MORE OPEN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CAPE VERDE WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, CODIFICATION OF LAWS, FORMALIZATION OF LEGAL SYSTEM, AND GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL EXPRESSION CAN PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL CAPE VERDEANS.

(2) WE WOULD EXPECT THAT REACTION TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND EMBASSY ACTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD BE UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE.

(3) WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY NEGATIVE CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS, AND SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN CAPE VERDE'S GENERALLY GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION COULD RESULT.

(4) A) AT PRESENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE CAPE VERDE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD JUSTIFIES ANY PUNITIVE USG ACTIONS.

B) CAPE VERDE WOULD BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHEN SUCH EFFORTS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SUCH GROUPS AS THE OAU, G-77, NAC, ETC. CHRISTOPHER

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